

Chatham Township Environmental Commission  
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600  
Minutes of the Tuesday, September 3, 2013 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, September 3, 2013 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members S. Carroll, F. Esposito, M. Kelly, S. Krishnan, M. Palmer (arrived 7:32), M. Schaaf, D. Stillinger, Township Committee Liaison Kathy Abbott. Township Residents of Sunset Lake Area.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2013 and January 2014 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at [www.chathamtownship.org](http://www.chathamtownship.org). The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

#### CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2013 AND JANUARY 2014

Every first Tuesday February through December 2013 and the second Tuesday in January 2014.

February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July NO MEETING, August 6 (cancelled), September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 in 2013 and January 14, 2014.

#### APPROVE GREEN TEAM AND CTEC MINUTES

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the June 4, 2013 CTEC and Green Team minutes and S. Krishnan 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

#### SUSTAINABLE JERSEY BRONZE CERTIFICATION AWARDED TO CHATHAM TOWNSHIP CONGRATULATIONS TO STEVE CARROLL!!!!

#### THANKS TO LOU CAPRIOGLIO FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE

Lou acted as a constant advocate for land preservation and conservation easements both on the environmental commission and the Planning Board. He served on the team that produced the conservation easement inventory for Chatham Township. His thoughtful insight and careful study of issues will be missed.

#### SUNSET LAKE DISCUSSION (7:20-7:55 PM)

Township resident Mary Ann Fasano and two neighbors from Sunset Lake neighborhood shared their concerns about Sunset Lake, a private lake in their neighborhood. They described the lake dating back to the 1950's and the changes the lake has gone through. Roughly 12 families in that neighborhood contribute funds to the maintenance of the lake. They expressed concerns regarding the pollution, trash and debris in the lake. They feel that the lake has turned into a retention basin from runoff due to developments in Madison, in addition to the drains not working. They are looking for guidance and would like the township to take some responsibility. CTEC members expressed that they would like to help, although at this time they are not sure what could be done, but would continue to discuss as this is an environmental issue and a learning tool.

#### LEGAL ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE

A Township lawyer, George Crimmins, has offered to act in an advisory capacity to CTEC. At the September CTEC meeting a Legal Issues Subcommittee was established to discuss some of the EC's concerns and how to proceed. Anyone interested is invited to be part of this subcommittee. Meeting, Monday, September 30, 7 PM.

#### GREEN TEAM MEETING

Reviewed preliminary actions for consideration on sustainable Jersey points due June 2016. Planning Board needs to approve checklist. Green Fair, September 21. S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

## GREEN FAIR SEPTEMBER 21

Monarch chrysalis will be on display again.

## RAIN GARDEN GRANT FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AWARDED.

Kathy Abbott spoke about the proposed rain garden at Southern Blvd School. Volunteers are needed for the construction and planting of the garden. The rain garden needs to be maintained and utilized. Matt Palmer suggested he could review the curriculum and incorporate an educational program for the students.

CTEC was awarded the civic category First Prize in the Show Us Your H2O contest. The TNC panel of judges was impressed with the amount of detail covered, the attention given to questions posed in the contest requirements, and that CTEC had a great place selected in need of a rain garden (Southern Boulevard School or municipal building). The Nature Conservancy will work with CTEC in the fall on implementation.

## RECYCLE HARDCOVER BOOKS

F. Esposito researched and presented a program that recycles hard covered books to Administrator Tom Ciccarone. Pending Mr. Ciccarone's response.

## APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. Verizon Wireless. Block 48.21, Lot 179. 529 Green Village Rd. Application, July 2013, to NJDEP for Individual Transition Area Waiver for a backup generator at existing wireless facility. **CTEC** would like to know what type of fuel the generator will use before they determine if a comment is necessary. D. Stillinger will check..

PENDING. Bhee properties, Block 61, Lot 10, 697 Fairmount Ave. Application to Planning Board to subdivide an acre property into two 1/2-acre lots in the R-3 (1/2-acre) zone. Fifty-foot drop from Sunset Drive to Fairmount Ave. Proposed usable lot area is only half of that required on each lot. Variances requested for very large deviations from required slope disturbances. Soil is loose and depth to bedrock is small so much potential for erosion and stormwater runoff.

PENDING. 23 Loantaka Lane South, Block 139, lot 17. Application by Home Help New Jersey, LLC to NJDEP for renewal of wetland disturbance permit. CTEC sent letters to NJDEP and others noting that the proposed required wetland compensation area is not on property owned by the applicant but is on land owned by the Morris County Park Commission. Morris County Planning Board replied with a letter stating that they were aware of the situation and were working with the applicant.

PENDING. 509 Shunpike Rd. Block 128, lot 14. Application to Planning Board to subdivide the 1-acre property into 2 1/2-acre lots. R-3 (1/2 acre residential) zone. Property is near Long Hill Chapel. Wetlands begin at rear property line. When the application comes up before the Planning Board CTEC will send memo to Planning Board suggesting asking applicant to obtain an LOI.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance.

## REPORTS

Planning Board report. Master Plan on Township website. Bhee properties. Green Checklist.

Township Committee report. K. Abbott, Township Committee liaison.

Open Space Committee report. S. Krishnan and M. Schaaf, Open Space Committee liaisons. – No recent meetings.

Communications Committee report. F. Esposito, Chair.

Recycling Committee report. Frank displayed bags purchased by MUA for condo residents which are to be used to carry recyclables to bins. Recycling trash is slightly higher compared to last year's tonnage reported. Megan Schaaf

will contact Chatham Disposal for solid waste tonnage reports for a comparison on recycling and waste removal from current and previous years. F. Esposito, Chair.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. CTEC receives several e-mails every day. F. Esposito responds and archives the messages. Follow up on Sapling Sale. M. Kelly and F. Esposito, Chair.

#### NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- Proposal by GH @ Long Hill, LLC to construct 208 residential townhouse units and 20 residential condominium flats at Block 11301, Lots 1, 2 & 3, 1100 Valley Rd. in Long Hill (Kurz property across from Long Hill Town Hall). Suggest CTEC take a look at this.
- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District ([www.mcsd.org/](http://www.mcsd.org/)) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, is one of only a few Morris County towns that assumes the responsibility for soil and erosion instead of leaving it to the county.
- Greeve conservation easement needs to be accepted and recorded. Planning Board final subdivision approval was granted 3-21-96 conditioned on a conservation easement be granted to the Township.
- Safe Routes to School - update. Report submitted to Township Committee, application will be made for grants and Gold status with the SRTS organization. "This (Chatham school district) was the only school district in which every school participated in SRTS programs throughout the school year." K. Abbott.
- Complete Streets - update. K. Abbott.
- PSE&G's power line upgrade is complete. Let's watch to see how they revegetate.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

#### RECENT LETTERS SENT

- April 2013. Letters concerning application to NJDEP for extension of Transition Area Waiver and General Permit by Home Help New Jersey, LLC sent to NJDEP, Morris County Planning Board, Morris County Park Commission.
- March 2013. Letter to three new owners of properties with conservation easements mentioning the existence of a conservation easement on part of their property.
- January 2013. Letter to NJDEP urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way, including the North Central Reliability Project, and revegetation with native species.

#### EVENTS

- September 14, 2013, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Morris County electronics and hazardous waste recycling. Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Ave, Parsippany NJ 07054. QUESTIONS? Call (973) 631-5109, [www.MCMUA.com](http://www.MCMUA.com).
- September 16, 2013, Monday, 7-9:30 p.m. ANJEC training for EC members. Highland Park Senior/Youth Recreation Center, 220 South 6th Avenue, Highland Park. Free for CTEC members.
- September 21, Saturday. Green Fair at the gazebo in Chatham Borough.
- October 19, 2013, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ANJEC 40th Annual Environmental Congress, Middlesex County College, Edison. \$60 before Oct. 4 for EC members.

#### MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers

ADJOURN 9:55 PM

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary